

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION ON AGING

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009

BARTLETT SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Craft at 9:35 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Callen, Cardella, Draper, Kimmel-Dagostino, Kramer, Thomas, Craft

Staff: Wand

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Kramer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Cardella provided the inspiration:

"I dance with the wind and relish each breath, ecstatic each day just to be."
The Daily Word

Commissioner Thomas added a Chinese proverb:

"If there is light in the world, there will be beauty in the person. If there is a beauty in the person, there will be harmony in the house. There will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world."

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Callen moved, Commissioner Cardella seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of March 10, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Kramer moved, Commissioner Thomas seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of February 10, 2009 as read. The motion carried unanimously.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

- Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center

7. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported on issues discussed/announced at recent City Council meetings:

- There will be laser shows following the Armed Forces concerts on May 15.
- New banners will be ordered to advertise the Armed Forces Day Parade, replacing those that have been used for the past 15 years.
- The Torrance Police Department is adopting a new "Team Policing" program which will provide more officers for peak times.
- The Ethics Committee appointments have been postponed as there are not enough candidates; appointment date has been rescheduled to April 7.
- Budget Workshops/Public Hearings to discuss the 2009-2011 operating budget will be held on May 12 and June 2.
- The Firefighters Spaghetti Dinner will be held on March 14 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center.
- The State of California has billed Torrance for roughly \$437,000 for the Educational Augmentation Fund, to balance the budget.
- The Environmental Quality Commission will host an Environmental Fair at the Madrona Marsh on June 13.
- The American Cancer Society will hold their "Relay for Life" event April 24-26 at Wilson Park.
- Billing procedures for Paramedic responses to certain medical facilities have been changed.
- Torrance will receive approximately \$2.9 million in Economic Stimulus Funds which will be used for rehabilitation on Crenshaw Boulevard (between Maricopa St. and Sepulveda Blvd.) and for the Del Amo Extension Project.

B. Housing

No report.

C. Health

Commissioner Thomas reported on a recently published article in the Daily Breeze written by John Bogert which addressed former Commissioner John LaBouff's struggle with Lewy body dementia and his wife, Jackie's, desire for additional information about this rare disease.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino discussed services such as gym memberships available through various HMO plans, indicating that futuristically these benefits may be reduced.

Commissioner Callen discussed the importance of receiving a vaccine for shingles.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that legislation is being introduced by Assemblyman Ted Lieu which would crack down on unscrupulous charter bus carriers.

E. Cable

Commissioner Callen reported on his currently airing "Portrait of a Senior" segment highlighting the life of Peter O'Brien. He also referenced a recent event sponsored by the Torrance Kiwanis Club at which various community organizations were recognized. He plans to do a future segment for CitiCABLE 3 about the popularity of power lifting for seniors.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Cardella reported on statistics for the month of February:

- Total number of calls received – 126
- Total number of documented calls – 48
- Miscellaneous calls – 78
- Total number of walk-ins – 26
- Total number of call-backs – 20

Of the 48 documented calls,

- 31.1% were in regard to Housing
- 17% were in regard to Transportation
- And 10.4% were questions about In-Home Services

Commissioner Cardella also reported that Focal Point Volunteers recently gave a presentation to the Hope Methodist Church, with 25 members in attendance. She indicated that a pharmacist from the Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation Center spoke at the February meeting of Focal Point volunteers; a speaker from the St. Mary's Low Vision Program will address the group in March.

Commissioner Callen discussed the many contributions of Torrance Focal Point Manager Bea Virobik and Torrance Focal Point Founder Russ Nolte.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Various scams were discussed.

Commissioner Krammer discussed the importance of securing or guarding your belongings (purses, etc.) at all times.

8. OLDER AMERICANS MONTH RECOGNITION

Mrs. Wand announced that Torrance City Council recognition of the Older Americans Award recipients would likely take place on May 5. The event sponsored by the LA County 4th Supervisorial District is scheduled for May 21.

Jackie LaBouff (nominated by Commissioner Thomas), Dale Ann Sato (nominated by Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino), and Merla Wilson (nominated by Commissioner Callen) were discussed as candidates for this year's Older Americans Awards.

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved, Commissioner Kramer seconded to select Jackie LaBouff, Dale Ann Sato, and Merla Wilson for Torrance City Council recognition. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Commissioner Kramer moved, Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino seconded to select Merla Wilson for LA County recognition. The motion carried unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT MEETING

Commissioner Thomas announced the Pancake Breakfast scheduled for Saturday, April 4 at The ATTIC. The event will celebrate the Teen Center's 10th Anniversary.

Commissioner Kramer announced an upcoming Torrance Symphony concert scheduled for Saturday, March 21 at 8:00 p.m. at the Armstrong Theatre.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that she recently attended the LA County 4th District Asian and Pacific Islander Community Roundtable event on March 4, noting that 50% of all Pacific Islanders in LA County live in Long Beach, Carson, Gardena and Torrance. She also announced West Basin Municipal Water District public tours scheduled for the second Saturday of each month. Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino discussed a recent article, "Elderly Emerge as a New Class of Workers- and the Jobless," which appeared in the Wall Street Journal.

Commissioner Craft announced that his wife will be honored for her volunteer efforts with TPAC (Torrance Performing Arts) on Saturday, March 14 at the Nakano Theatre.

Guest Vickie Hershberger announced an upcoming Stroke Prevention class scheduled for April 16, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., which is being offered free of charge. She also announced upcoming exercise and aerobics classes scheduled to begin in May. Ms. Hershberger also distributed copies of the current issue of "Vim and Vigor."

13. ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. to the next regular meeting of Tuesday, April 10, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as Submitted April 14, 2009 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
